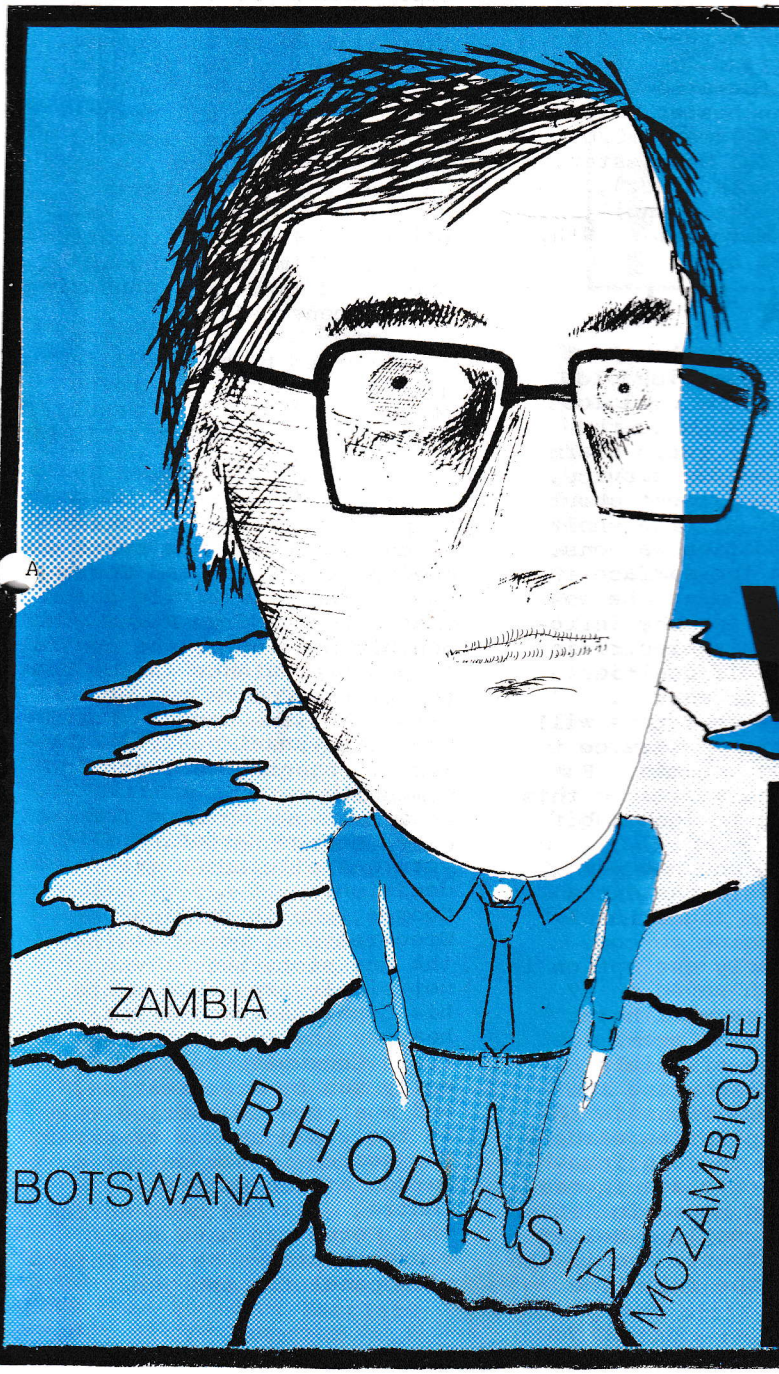
all the news they don't tell you

TAMESIDE BYE

NO. 11 DEC. 79

ANTIDOTE TO THE 80's!

15p.



SPIERS; SMITH'S SECRET WEAPON

LABOURING UNDER THE *plus* TORIES

RETURN OF

Uncle Ben

TAMESIDE EYE

IS

- INDEPENDENT.
- HARD-HITTING.
- NON-PROFIT-MAKING.

EYE

HAD A BRUSH WITH A BUREAUCRAT? YOUR BOSS BEEN SILLY OR UNPLEASANT ? WHAT ABOUT THAT CONFIDENTIAL MEMO THAT DISTURBS YOU? DON'T SIT ON IT...CONTACT EYE AND LET EVERYONE KNOW.

☆new☆ address

Tameside Eye
PO Box 30,
Hyde, Ches. SK14 3JL.

Telephone: 455 3724

meetings

WEDS. 8.30pm GREYHOUND, BURLINGTON ST. ASHTON.
Phone 1st

ad-rates

£7 for a sixth of a page.

Events,meetings, etc. listed free.

subscriptions

£1.50 for 6 issues

COPY DATE: 23rd Jan..
NEXT ISSUE OUT 2nd Feb.

Printed by R.A.P.
230 Spotland Rd. Rochdale.

NEWS, INFORMATION, GOSSIP?

On Thursday December 6th, a member of the Central Relatives Action Committee in Belfast addressed a small audience in the AUEW hall in Ashton.
She spoke about the conditions in H-Block prison today, and the suffering of the prisoners there who are campaigning for political status.
She is actively concerned because she has had several of her children interned and also imprisoned in H-Block.
The question of Ireland has recently been raised in Tameside, where the Trades Council now support the withdrawal of the troops from Northern Ireland; believing that a political solution is necessary.
Dave Holdsworth, the Secretary of Tameside Trades Council announced at the meeting that there will be a conference on Ireland in February which all members of the Labour movement are urged to attend.
For more information, contact: Manchester United Troops Out Movement, C/O 178 Oxford Rd, Manchester.
Dave Hallsworth, (Sec), Tameside Trades Council, AUEW Hall, Margaret St.Sth, Ashton Under Lyne.

★☆★

It now looks as though at least 17 of Tameside old people's wardens will loose their jobs thanks to the new technology radio alarm and mobile warden service.
This would represent about one third of all the sheltered accomodation wardens.
Although on the surface everything seems to be going smoothly for the introduction of this electronic care, a few difficulties have yet to be solved.
The claim is that this will be an additional service to the existing schemes. But if 17 wardens are to go this is beginning to look a bit thin.
Secondly, no one has yet explained where the extra cash for this 'additional' service is going to come from. Clearly one option is that the cash saved on 17 warden's wages will help.
But another idea seems to be in Housing officials minds - to discourage the Housing Associations in the area from appointing wardens and ask them to join Tamesides electronic age instead.
At Burlington House in Ashton, there is currently a Relief Warden and adverts are in the paper s for the full time job.
Not surprisingly few people are applying because this is one of the positions to be phased out if the alarm system is being installed at Burlington, and this will create problems for at least one of the residents.
She was moved to wardened sheltered housing on doctors orders, after it was found she had angina. At 75 she needs to be in close touch with her warden. It now seems she will have to move from Burlington House.

★☆★

A working party has been set up comprising Chief Officers Councillors, and Trade Unionists to discuss 'Manpower' arrangements. However, pressure is on from the Trades Union side to maintain all jobs and to seek cuts in expenditure and other methods of saving that will not affect employment. It seems unlikely therefore that manpower is all that will be on the agenda.
Suggestions so far include:
*£50,000 per year, could be saved by paying all council workers by cheque, instead of getting Securicor to make up the cash wage packets.
* At £200 a screening, Environmental Health Committees private film shows should be axed (and leave the censoring to the censors!)
The Trade Unions are being represented by Wilf Williamson (for the teachers) Dorothy Marsden (NALGO) Mike Rawcliffe (NUPE) and Terry Foster (GMWU)

★☆★

Responsibility for Hattersley Community Centre now rests with one Dept. - Youth and Community. There is little doubt that a letter from Forum, the monthly meeting at the centre, tipped the balance in the battle to get the Centre out of Wreckreations hands. Forum had voted unanimously in favour of changing to Youth and Community.
As a face-saving move for Cllr. George Hatton, a free vote was allowed on the decision.
George, who is Chairman of Wreckreation, voted against the decision, but he was not simply trying to protect his department. He is heavily involved in Dukinfield Community Centre, currently run by Wreckreation, and must now be worried that it too could seek a transfer.
The search is now on for a warden at the Hattersley Centre. It has been agreed that Forum can have two representatives on the Interview panel for the job.

CONTACT EYE ON THE HOT LINE...

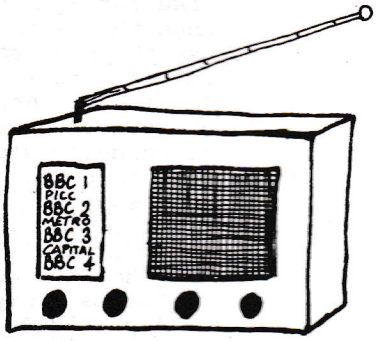
HOT LINE

tel 455 3724

Another slap in the face for Rex Hampson - the man in charge of Wreckreations Centres.
After a recent Disciplinary Hearing, Peter Bartlett has been re-instated as Manager of their ugly duckling - the Copley Centre.
It is debateable whether the full glory details of Hampsons witch hunt of Bartlett will ever emerge. What is known is that Bartlett ended up having to hire a solicitor for the defence of his job, at his own expense, after he had been suspended from Copley and demoted to being the temporary Manager of Hattersley centre.
Apparently, Hampson used to drop litter in some of the darker corners of Copley Centre. When he returned a week later to find the 'litter' still in place, he would then reprimand Bartlett and staff for not keeping the place clean.
More serious charges levelled against Bartlett were to do with the runningof the catering at the Centre and with his spending of the Centre's funds. Evidently, this has all been cleared up now.
It will be interesting to see if Hampson can emerge from this unscathed. He has for some time been selling jewellry during Wreckreation time to anyone who will buy, and this has definitely been brought to the notice of both councillors and Ted Neighbour, Chief Wrecker.
POST SCRIPT:
Hampson is a NALGO rep at Denton. We understand that after this incident Bartlett has now joined Tameside NUPE Staffs Branch.

Meanwhile, rank and file trade unionists in the Manchester area are setting up the Manchester Fightback (against the cuts). Following the lead taken by Lambeth Trade Unionists and community Groups in London, it was decided at a recent meeting to challenge the weak 'Campaign for Manchester' which includes the Labour leader of Manchester Council Norman Morris, the Trades Council and the Communist Party.

Fightback's argument is that those in control must put their heads on the chopping block too and oppose the cuts in public expenditure and our living standards.



Every Monday at 2pm 'Give and Take' goes out on the airwaves. If you havn't listened in, it is BBC Radio Manchester's regular appeals programme for local groups and 'causes.' But, it is now threatened with closure. Thanks to the Government cuts in the Manpower Services Commission 'Job Creation' tne programmes fund runs out at the end of December.
If you want to comment on the programme or tell them you have found it worthwhile, drop a line to them.
More info from: Natalie Anglesey,
BBC Radio Manchester, New Broadcasting House, P.O. Box 90, Oxford Rd. M60 1SJ.
Phone: 228 3434

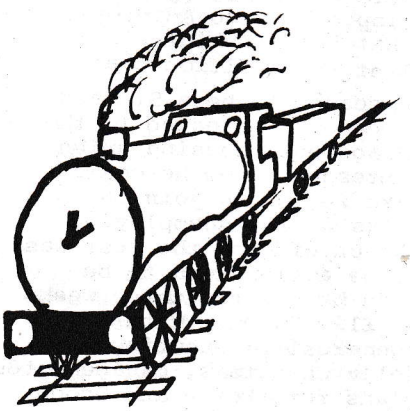
★☆★

A Rape Crisis Centre is to be set up in Manchester for the victims of sex attacks. Rape victims will be able to seek rapid medical and legal advice and moral support. The volunteer group planning to launch the scheme includes nurses, psychologists, housewives lawyers and doctors.
At the moment the organising group are still planning the Centre - when they go 'public' we will print the full details.

Now that the latest plan for Comprehensive Education in Tameside has been published a closer look can be taken at the Labour Party's proposals.
The fact is that 7 out of the proposed 18 schools will still be single sex schools. To underline this non-comprehensive policy, Cllr. George James said recently that Fairfield High will 'never' have a mixed intake. As a Governor of the school and a Labour member of the Education Committee he ought to know. James later corrected himself by saying that there would be no mixed intake 'in the foreseeable future.'
The proposals also do nothing to destroy the image that the Grammar Schools are of a 'better quality' than the rest. They are to get all the Sixth Formers, whilst the Secondary schools remain with the 11-16 year olds.
No wonder then that the Labour Councillors have promised that they 'will not fight' to put the proposals into practice. Mark Carlisle, the Govt. Education Minister, is unlikely to oppose such half-hearted proposals.
Nevertheless, on the grounds that half a loaf is better than none, Tameside Teacher's Association are backing the proposals to the hilt.

★☆★

The recent large demonstration against the public expenditure cuts, held in London on Nov. 28th was not as well attended by Tameside Trade Unionists as might have been hoped NUPE had intended hiring a British Rail train for its members to get down there in speed and comfort. Apparently BR turned round and said they couldn't manage to put a train on with it being so near Christmas!



MUCK & BRASS

CHRISTMAS ON THE GATE

ACROW shareholders can rest assured of a prosperous New Year.
Despite the dive in pre tax profits from £5.98 million to £1.31 million in the first half of this year and a fall in turnover from £73.58 million to £69.06 m. dividends are going to remain at 6%.
Less certain of a happy Yuletide are the 180 strikers at Adamsons Containers in Reddish who have been 'on the gate' for over 14 weeks. Despite the fact that effective support has been successfully torpedoed by union officials among other ACROW workers, the Reddish workers, many of whom come from Dukinfield, are continuing their war of attrition against the 'ACROW subsidiary's refusal to negotiate 45 redundancies which would have broken the rank and file union organisation at the plant.

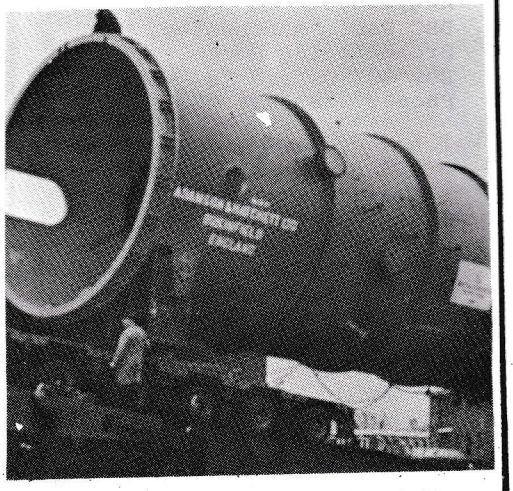
payoff

Co-inciding with the half year results management have offered reinstatement to all except steward John Taylor. He was to be shipped back to Adamsons & Hatchet's Dukinfield plant on condition that he ceases to be a Steward. In case he objected to the Management choosing union representatives he could take £4,500 to join the ranks of the unemployed. The payoff for the rest was to be a £150 loan to be paid back after three weeks at £12 a week. With such 'generosity' ensuring a jolly Christmas, management8s plans for 'Peace and Goodwill' was for strikers to agree to work with the four scabs who had ignored the strike.

rejected

Being on strike for 3½ mths must do strange things to people because the proposal was thrown out at a mass meeting by 100 to 39. Now Adamsons and Hatchet workers after some token daily stoppages have voted to come out each morning in support. Meanwhile, other ACROW workers are learning the same lesson. The Stockport subsidiary of Thomas Story which makes baily bridges is on a three day week, while up in Sunderland the Coles Cranes works have sacked 10 workers including a steward for allegedly sleeping on night shift. ACROW boss De Vigier blames the poor company results on the Adamsons dispute and the recent engineering and transport strikes.
Those who would like to see him lose a bit more sleep than his Coles night workers should contact

Strike Support Committee,
6 Brooklands Rd.,
Reddish.
for support and donations.



Work goes on at Adamsons & Hatchett - for now....

ICL CLIMB-DOWN

ICL have frozen their decision to close Park Rd. Mill Dukinfield and make the workforce of 900 redundant.

meeting

The company backed down following a factory meeting on November 19th when the workers again voted overwhelmingly to fight the closure.
Most of the workforce realised that getting another job at ICL's rates of pay would be very difficult, especially those who had been made redundant before. ICL had made a big mistake in assuming that the carrot of redundancy payments would mean a smooth run - down and closure of the mill.

month

The Unions persuaded ICL to give them a months breathing space to set up a working party to study alternative proposals for work that could be done at Dukinfield. The Union working party will present its report to ICL at the end of December.

SOGAT SAGA

Star witness for Management at the Industrial Tribunal of Maggie Pearson, sacked by Hurst and Jones Ltd. Hyde, after trying to organise the workforce into the union S.O.G.A.T. (see previous issues of EYE) was Roy Bennett, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Textile Workers Union (Southern Area).

denied

Bennett gave evidence that Hurst and Jones was not anti trade union and was willing to have employees join ATWU, and denied that he knew of any approach by employees to SOGAT prior to his invite by Management to recruit members.

The A.T.W.U. operates from offices in Old St. Ashton, and has 2,300 members in several local mills-notably Bowker & Ball and Ashton Bros. of Hyde. They were affiliated to the Tameside Trades Council until 1977 with Mr. Bennett a local J.P. as the delegate. The Union disaffiliated after the press allegations that the Secretary, Bert Ellicott had 'burned'tickets to the Queen's Jubilee Garden Party.

sacked

Employees at another local firm will remember how the ATWU got into their factory. Some five years ago John Holt, a member of the GMWU at Boris Buckley, a textile waste firm on Whitelands Rd. Ashton, gave out union membership forms to the other employees. He was immediately sacked and while he was awaiting an Industrial Tribunal hearing, Boris Buckley called in Mr. Bennett and signed a closed shop agreement compelling all employees to join the A.T.W.U.

cash

Hurst and Jones have sacked 50% of their employees since the firm set up in Hyde in July 1977.
It seems that S.O.G.A.T have given up hopes of organising Hurst and Jones workers, although at one point they had over 50% of the workforce in membership.
After only half a day of the Tribunal Hearing, SOGAT Solicitor Waterman made it clear to Maggie Pearson that she should accept a cash settlement of £450 or SOGAT might withdraw representation. She had been cleaiming full reinstatement with no loss of pay or rights.
The Tribunal hearing of the second sacked SOGAT member, Christopher Hayden, is still pending

happy x mas to both our readers

THEY MUST BE STOPPED

'I HEARD HIM ACCUSING THE POLICE OF HARRASSING AN IMMIGRANT AND DECIDED HE HAD TO BE STOPPED.' P.C. WOOLSTENCROFT TOLD THE ASHTON MAGISTRATES COURT DURING THE TRIAL OF DAVID HALLSWORTH AND JOHN TUMMON WHICH ENDED ON DECEMBER 5TH WITH FINES TOTALLING £420.

Hallsworth and Tummon were arrested in Ashton precinct on Saturday the 1st Sept. whilst conducting a street meeting in support of Gias Uddin the 18 year old Bangladeshi from Mossley.
He has been imprisoned and threatened with deportation because the immigration authorities claim he is not the biological son of his father.
The two were charged with insulting words likely to cause a breach of the peace and obstructing the highway. They were alleged to have described the police as 'fascist pigs'. In response to defence questioning, Sgt.Murphy, one of the arresting officers, denied ever seeing brass bands or morris dancers performing in the precinct.

Apparently two local traders, Mrs. Nicholson of Greggs Bakers and Miss Johnstone of 'The Cardshop' had complained tothe police about political speeches in.theprecinct and had organised a petition of local shopkeepers to get them stopped. Their main concern was distraction of the customers! They did not object to brass bands or other performers however. worth speaking about the virginity tests conducted on Asian women at Heathrow and said such talk was 'offensive' to the people of Tameside. (He did not comment on whether the tests themselves were offensive, just talking about them).

Bale also objected to Hallsworth addressing the audience as brothers and sisters when they were no 'all working class! '
He also accused Tummon of provoking his own arrest and beingpleased when the police were forced to arrest him.

Despite the contradictions in police evidence, the defendents were found guilty on all charges and fined a total of £420.
They were forced to accept binding over for 12 months on threat of six months imprisonment if they refused.
Both Tameside Trades Council and Tameside Campaign against Racism and Fascism (C.A.R.F.) have reaffirmed their intention not to be intimidated by the arrests and judgements and have stated that they will continue to exercise their civil right of addressing in public.
They are also expressing concern to Robert Sheldon M.P. about the political judgements of Ashton Magistrates.
An appeal is being corsidered.

Donations to the Defence Fund will be gratefully received c/o C.A.R.F. AUEW Building, Margaret St. South, Ashton Under Lyne.

CHRISTMAS FARE

It's fairly clear that shopping around isn't as easy as Mrs. Thatcher would have us believe. A working mother doesn't have time or inclination to do more than a quick dash to the nearest shop.

We thought it might be interesting to take a trip round a few supermarkets in Tameside and compare the prices we'll be paying for our christmas dinner this year. We chose a range of items that the average family may buy. Not all the shops stocked all the items for instance, Kwik Save does not stock fresh vegetables or booze.

How can we account for the difference in prices? Is it overheads? How do wages compare between the different shops? It was significant that Kwik Save seem to employ mainly young women, presumably lower paid. Similarly Kwik Save dont spend much money on trimmings. The goods don't have price labels and they carry a limited range of brands.

Hyde Superstore on the other hand is ultra modern with computerised cash tills - one of our friends was charged £3.60 instead of 36p for one item!

We'd like to hear from readers about their experiences of supermarket shopping both as customers and workers.

Xmas Dinner ITEM	Asda Ashton	Fine Fare (Hyde)	Kwik Save (Stalybridge)	Shoppers Paradise (A-U-L)
First Course				
Baxters game soup	-	20	19.5	-
Second Course				
Turkey per lb.	52	49	-	-
Sprouts per lb.	16	14	-	-
Potatoes per 5lb.	35	34	-	-
Stuffing	9	-	9	8
Third Course				
Xmas Pudding (Robertsons)	43.5	43.5	43.5	43
Cream (small double)	34.5	41.5	34.5	-
6 mince pies (Mr. Kipling)	32.5	39	32	29
1 lb. Mincemeat (Robertsons)	31	29.5	27	-
Xmas Crackers	95 (1 doz)	95 (Pkt.of 10)	-	£1.19
Extras				
Quality Street	£5.85 (5 lb)	£4.13 (4 lb)	-	£1.15
Smarties	45.5	47	45	46
Vimto	38	29	-	37
Coke (Lg)	51	-	33	-
Lager	99(4 cans)	70 (4 cans)	-	23
Bottle Whisky	£4.35	£4.59	-	£4.15

HANDY CAP

Dear Tameside Eye,

Where can I go for contraception and will it cost me anything?

You can go to your own G.P. for a prescription for the pill or alternatively go to any of the Family Planning Clinics where you get the pill, sheath, pessaries, diaphram or I.U.D.

The clinics in Tameside are as follows:

Ashton Under Lyne
Crickets Lane Health Centre,
Mondays 6.45 - 8.45
Tel. 308 2560

Ante-Natal Dept. Tameside Hospital.
Thursdays 1.30 - 3.30
Tel. 330 8373

Audenshaw
Clinic Centre, Water St.
Guide Lane.
1st & 3rd Tues. 7 - 9 pm
Tel. 330 7637

Droylsden
School Clinic Albion Dr.
Thursdays 6.45 - 8.
Tel. 370 2775

Dukinfield
Clinic Centre, Dewsnap Lane
Mondays 7 - 8.45
Tel. 330 5266

Gamesley
Community Centre,
2nd Tue in Month 7.-8.30
Tel. Gamesley (67) 65260

Glossop
County Clinic, George St.
Alt. Weds. 1.30 - 2.30
Weds. Evening 7-8pm
Tel. Glossop 5611

Hattersley
Health Centre, Hattersley Rd.East.
Monday 7 - 8.45
Tel. 368 4331

Hyde
Clinic Centre, Corporation St.
Alt. Weds. 7 - 9 pm
Thursday 7 - 9 pm
Alt Tues. 10 - 11 am
Te l. 368 4242

Mossley
Methodist Church Hall, Market Place
Weds. 7 - 8.30
Tel. Mossley 5829

MONEY FOR MATERNITY

If you're having a baby what financial help can you get from the State and your employer?

Maternity Grant

If you or your husband have been working you'll get the £25 grant. If you havn't worked because you are too young or a student you will not get it, even though you will probably need it more.
What will it buy?
The Grant hasn't been increased for ten years and it is now worth less in real terms than when it was introduced in 1911.
£25 will now buy 2 dozen good quality nappies, one babygro a couple of vests and some plastic pants. Obviously, the baby will need more clothes and something to sleep in, A new carrycot will cost about £20 with another £10 or so for bedding. And, the baby will grow out of it in about six months.
A campaign has been launched to make sure all women qualify for the grant and to raise it to a realistic level of £85. The address of 'Money for Maternity - the National Maternity Grant Campaign' is 255 Kentish Town Rd. London NW5 2LX.

Maternity Allowance

This benefit is worth much more but you need to have worked for about two years to qualify. The basic allowance is £18.50 a week and lasts for 18 weeks. If you have been in a well paid job you will get an earnings related supplement as well after the first two weeks. Most women assume that they will only get maternity allowance once. But if you have two children within two years you may get it again, even if you do not go back to work.
The logic of this seems to be that if you have been earning good money you deserve to go on gettingit. It's not related to need at all. It has been suggested that all women should get cash sums during pregnancy, either like child benefit or lump sums at different stages

Maternity Pay

The qualifications for this are even more stringent. You get six weeks maternity pay if you have worked for the same employer for two years before leaving to have your baby.

Child Benefit

Once the baby is born you'll get £4 a week child benefit. £2 more if you are a single parent, but nothing if you are on social security because the £4 will be deducted from your weekly allowance.

ARE YOU FROM THE DHSS THEN?
WHO WAS JOSEPHS LAST EMPLOYER?
ARE YOU JUST COHABITING OR MARRIED?
SORRY DEAR WE HAVE NO RECORD OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
WELL I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH SWADDLING CLOTHES

STAND AND DELIVER!

STAND AND DELIVER FRIDAY 16th NOVEMBER - DOG AND PARTRIDGE, BROOK ST. ASHTON UNDER LYNE

An evening of poetry, drama and music is uncommon anywhere in Tameside, especially Ashton, but on Friday November 16th 'Stand and Deliver' produced a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment along with strong political comment.
The event began with Ernie and Penny of North West Spanner fame, conducting a sort of 'mass encounter group' with the whole audience. Later they performed some of their old, but good as new material from 'Jubilations' their play about the Queens (as in H.R.H.) Silver Jubilee, cleverly interposed with comment on the far right politics of the National Front.
Following Spanner came two poets from the working class poets organisation 'Common word', Mike Rowe and Joe Smithe. Rowe brilliantly mimicked John Cooper Clarke in what at first sounded like a direct rip-off. His delivery and voice were 'perfect' J.C.C.
Joe Smithe's contribution was also excellent for those who could hear it, taking a somewhat more serious view of life in what he called his 'brand of Socialism.'
The rest of the evening was well above average too. The resident poets Mike Rooke and Ian Dagger did new material. Dagger's was, as usual, very funny. His basic method is to deliver a monologue in various pythonesque voices mocking and exagerating the kind of conversations you may hear in Tameside anywhere at any time. Like the one about the blokes in the pub boasting about 'zooping up' their cars - each one trying to out-do the other, each boast becoming more and more ludicrous.
However, Mike Rooke is finally, more interesting with his mass of red hair and beard he looks like a hennad Moses, and his obsession with children, taken to the point of delivering his poetry in childish voices, jumping up and down, turns sheer embarassment into an art form.

ousing

e Tories

g ten-
nts to
il
y be-

l off
ses
e tax-
lions
imated
ty
between
ese
udy of
es that
in

ofits
made
sory.
re-
ouses
eased
r
rties
he old-
on
rity) -
turn
nto

a
have
.
r hang-
s coun-

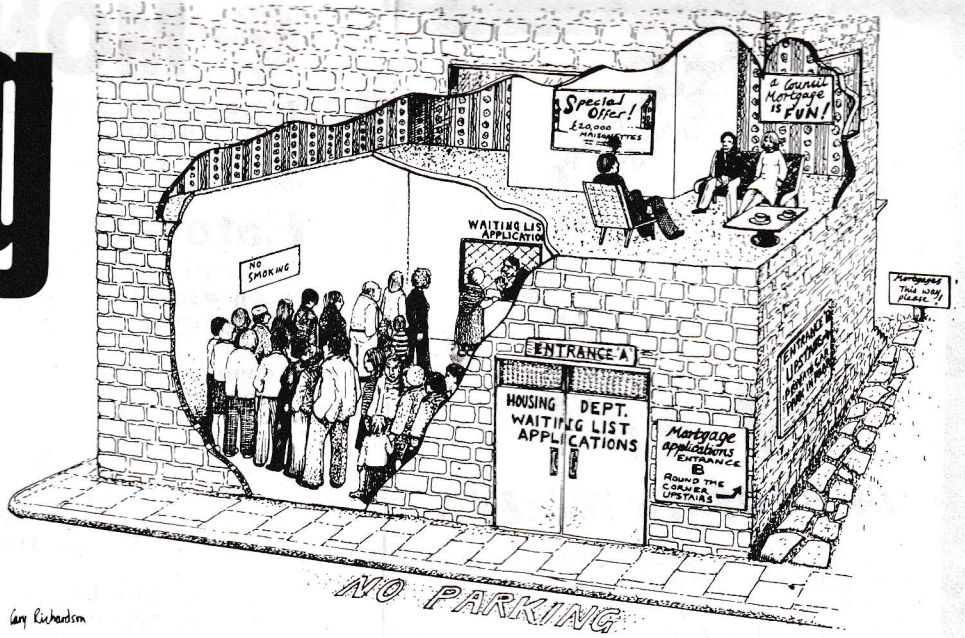
UNCIL
OUSES
MPLETED

UNCIL
OUSES
LD

OCAL AUTHORITIES
W TOWNS IN
LAND & WALES

Man-
no sal-

with
ty
rtain
leav-
n of
en
use,
f make
oty one.



HARD UP

Extra staff would be required to handle the administration of the sales scheme: This is in direct conflict with the demand from Central Govt. that there should be no more local authority jobs!
In any case, Bailey has said that if his Dept. was to take on any extra staff right now, they would not be in sales!

Secondly, as outlined above there will be no cash for mortgages available from the council, and Building Societies at present are unable to meet the demand for loans in the private sector and would not want to take on the additional responsibility of loans for council houses. If it came to the crunch, local authorities could simply refuse point blank to implement the scheme as happened recently when the Lambeth Area Health Authority in London refused to carry out the cuts demanded by the Government. The Government would then have to send in a Commissioner to do the job. But, as some Tory-controlled local authorities have already expressed opposition to the sales, this could prove politically impossible.

MORE GLOOM

At present the Housing Aid Centre on Stamford St. in Ashton runs out of funds in March 1980. They have got an application for another five years money before the Dept. of the Environment now. But this is a renewal of Urban Aid, which is not being looked upon favourably by the Quango-bashing Heseltine.

NEW COMMITTEE

Finally, the new Direct Works Committee, intended to speed up repairs and carry them out more efficiently, is losing craftsmen faster than they are joining. The council minute says it all: 'The number of employees is now reduced to the level of April this year...approx 360 which was well below the basic requirement..... the number of outstanding repair notes at the end of September had increased.'

" Actually, I'm robbing the poor to give to the rich!"

WHAT A MESS!

Tameside tenants lookinf for solutions and improvements from a new Labour council are in for a long wait. The combined effect of local Tory neglect, Labour Government inaction, and Thatcherite attacks have left Bailey and Co. with far more than the odd roof slate to replace. 'Proper housing for all' seems like it is once again going to become a revolutionary demand.

Direct Works strike

MANY OF HATTERSLEY'S REPAIRS ARE CARRIED BY MANCHESTER'S DIRECT WORKS DEPARTMENT. RECENT DISPUTE, INCLUDING THEIR TACTLESS DECISION TO REFUSE EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO LIFTS, HAS EARNED THEM A LOT OF BAD PUBL BUT, WHEN THE INCIDENT OUTLINED BELOW TO PLACE, IT GOT ONE MENTION IN THE EVENING NEWS, BUT WAS COMPLETELY IGNORED BY EVER OTHER PAPER, RADIO STATION AND TV NEWS..

IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE THAT THE DIRECT WORKS WORK-FORCE ARE TAKING MILITANT ACT

A tragedy occurred on the picket line at Manchester Council's Direct Works depot at Bessemer St. on Friday 9th November.

A private contractor's lorry delivering steel clothes-line posts (there were already hundreds in stock), attempting to breach the picket-line, knocked down and ran over one of the picketters, a Direct Works Operative.

The man was run over by both front and back wheels of the lorry. As a result, he had to be rushed to Manchester Royal Infirmary critically ill. He has been on a life-support machine with massive damage to his abdomen. He is now 'comfortable' though he has pains in his chest and no feeling in his legs.

□ □ □

Not

EYE TA
TENANT
HOUSIN

At long last
on Committee
and Tameside
has been set
tended that i
problems whic
council tenan
those on Hatt
pay their ren
and their rat
Tameside will
by Cllrs. Boo
Slamon, Smith
and the Mayor
previously re
this committe
of problems h
of time to bu
The first mee
1980, but alt
wanted it to
to implement
Manchester ha
it should be

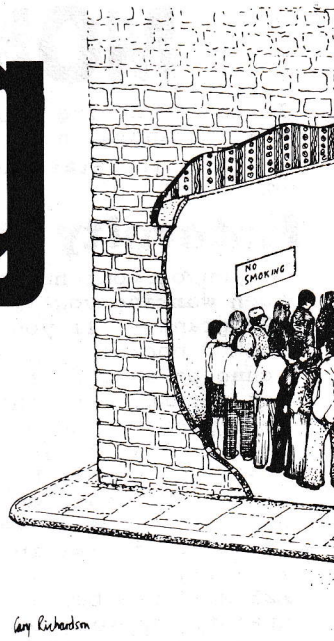
The cause
dispute wa
two and a
otiations
and Unions
lem of tar
ment had,
refused to
in the Eng
Section,
workers co
without ta
ment locke
workers an
workforce
sympathy.

At the tim
the Police
got, the f
of the sho
getting to
premises.
angry, 100
the police
the gates
the men.

To date, t
still not

council housing

Labouring under the Tories



Gary Richardson

When the Labour Group took over from the Tories in May Peter Bailey, the new Housing Chairman, inherited a host of problems: a low budget which had been fixed before the elections; a back-log of repairs; a decimated Building Services work-force with which to tackle them.

LATEST ATTACK

A low budget this year is bad enough but news has now come through of another savage blow to Tamesides Council Housing. Every year Central Government fixes the Housing Investment Programme (HIP). Bailey has applied for £26 million for next years HIP grant. It now seems likely that this will only be £16 - £17 million.

NO NEW HOMES

This would mean no home improvement grants, no cash for council mortgages, and no new house building at all. It would also cut into some of the long term repairs and maintenance plans.
One Councillor told EYE recently that some repairs have been reported for four years, even if Bailey makes repairs top priority, what chance those on the waiting list ?

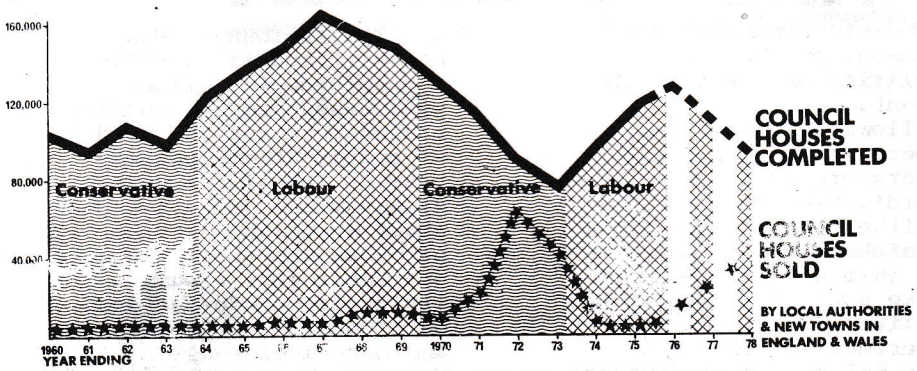
scheme - i.e. existing tenants or anyone who wants to - the effect of council house sales is already becoming plain.

HUGE LOSSES

The Tory plans to sell off 5 million council houses are likely to cost the taxpayer hundreds of millions of pounds. It is estimated that for every property sold losses would be between £8,535 and £2,735 (these figures are from a study of the effect of the sales that have already happened in Leeds).
The predicted vast profits for local authorities made out of sales are illusory. Lost rent, inflation, repayment of loans on houses already sold and increased maintainance costs per house (the best properties would sell, leaving the oldest and worst condition houses with the authority) - all these would soon turn any instant profits into long term debts.

TAMESIDE'S POLICY

Since May, only about a dozen council houses have been sold in Tameside.
These were yet another hangover from the previous council. However, unlike Manchester which has a 'no sales' policy, Tameside Labour group go along with the weaker Labour Party Policy of sales in certain circumstances. But, leaving aside the question of whether any tenant even wants to buy their house, lack of cash and staff make the Tory threat an empty one.



ENFORCED SALES: EMPTY THREAT?

As if this was not enough, there are no proposals by the Government to force councils to sell their housing at fixed discounts of up to 50%.
Although there is still a lot of debate about exactly who would be allowed to buy council houses under this

HARD UP

Extra staff would be required to handle the administration of the sales scheme: This is in direct conflict with the demand from Central Govt. that there should be no more local authority jobs!
In any case, Bailey has said that if his Dept. was to take on any extra staff right now, they would not be in sales!

Secondly, as outlined above there will be no cash for mortgages available from the council, and Building Societies at present are unable to meet the demand for loans in the private sector and would not want to take on the additional responsibility of loans for council houses. If it came to the crunch, local authorities could simply refuse point blank to implement the scheme as happened recently when the Lambeth Area Health Authority in London refused to carry out the cuts demanded by the Government. The Government would then have to send in a Commissioner to do the job. But, as some Tory-controlled local authorities have already expressed opposition to the sales, this could prove politically impossible.

MORE GLOOM

At present the Housing Aid Centre on Stamford St. in Ashton runs out of funds in March 1980. They have got an application for another five years money before the Dept. of the Environment now. But this is a renewal of Urban Aid, which is not being looked upon favourably by the Quango-bashing Heseltine.

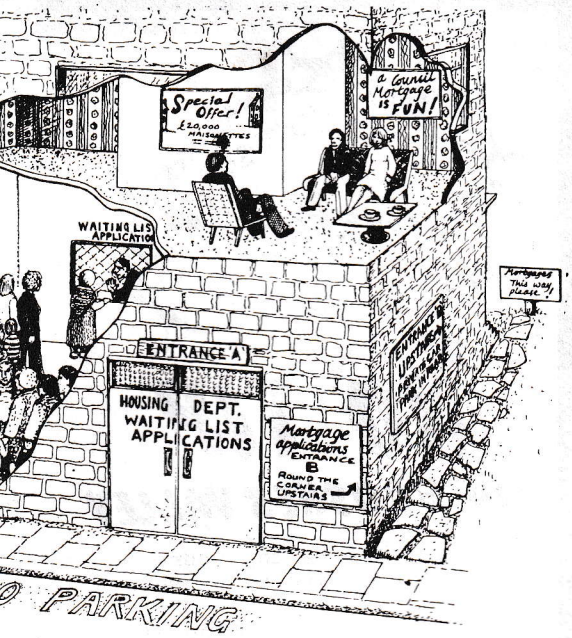
NEW COMM

Finally, Commi
up repai
out more
losing
they ar
council
'The nu
now red
of Apri
360 whi
the bas
the num
repair
Septemb

" Actu
the
the

WHAT A

Tameside
for solu
ments f
council
wait.
of local
Labour
and Tha
have le
with fa
roof sl
'Proper
seems li
going t
ionary



EE

e new Direct Works
inte ed to speed
and carry them
ficiently, is
tsmen faster than
ining. The
ute says it all:
of employees is
to the level
is year...approx
as well below
equirement.....
of outstanding
s at the end of
ad increased.'

y, I'm robbing
r to give to
!"

nants lookinf
s and improve-
a new Labour
in for a long
combined effect
y neglect,
nment inaction,
rite attacks
ailey and Co.
re than the odd
to replace.
sing for all'
t is once again
come a revolut-
d.

Not our Department!

EYE TAKES A LOOK AT SOME OF THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS TENANTS FACE ON ONE OF TAMESIDE'S LARGEST COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES - HATTERSLEY.

At long last the Joint Liason Committee between M/cr and Tameside Councillors has been set up. It is intended that it will discuss problems which arise over council tenants, such as those on Hattersley, who pay their rent to Manchester and their rates to Tameside. Tameside will be represented by Cllrs. Booth, Hughes, Slamon, Smith, Fogg, Shaw and the Mayor. The Tories previously refused to have this committee, so the list of problems has had plenty of time to build up. The first meeting is in Jan. 1980, but although Tameside wanted it to have the power to implement its decisions, Manchester have insisted that it should be 'deliberative'.

This toothless watchdog, reminiscent of the Community Health Council in relation to the Area Health Authority, has not even got the Chairman of Tameside's Housing, Peter Bailey, on it!

EYE has kindly offered to draw up the Committee's first Agenda:

1. Damp properties (it's not just 'condensation.')
2. Sale of the police house on Paignton Avenue.
3. Illegal over crowding by Manchester decree.
4. Repairs delays.
5. Long waits for adaptations for disabled people.
6. Under staffing at the Housing Office.
7. The old—fashioned and insulting attitude of some of the staff towards tenants.

Direct Works strike

MANY OF HATTERSLEY'S REPAIRS ARE CARRIED OUT BY MANCHESTER'S DIRECT WORKS DEPARTMENT. THE RECENT DISPUTE, INCLUDING THEIR TACTLESS DECISION TO REFUSE EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE LIFTS, HAS EARNED THEM A LOT OF BAD PUBLICITY BUT, WHEN THE INCIDENT OUTLINED BELOW TOOK PLACE, IT GOT ONE MENTION IN THE EVENING NEWS, BUT WAS COMPLETELY IGNORED BY EVERY OTHER PAPER, RADIO STATION AND TV NEWS.....

IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE THAT THE DIRECT WORKS WORK-FORCE ARE TAKING MILITANT ACTION.

A tragedy occurred on the picket line at Manchester Council's Direct Works depot at Bessemer St. on Friday 9th November.

A private contractor's lorry delivering steel clothes-line posts (there were already hundreds in stock), attempting to breach the picket-line, knocked down and ran over one of the picketters, a Direct Works Operative.

The man was run over by both front and back wheels of the lorry. As a result, he had to be rushed to Manchester Royal Infirmary critically ill. He has been on a life-support machine with massive damage to his abdomen. He is now 'comfortable' though he has pains in his chest and no feeling in his legs.

The cause of the original dispute was the failure of two and a half years of negotiations between Management and Unions to resolve a problem of targeted work. Management had, over this period refused to agree to targets in the Engineering Crafts Section, After a vote by the workers concerned not to work without targets, the Management locked out 25% of the workers and the rest of the workforce then came out in sympathy.

At the time of the tragedy the Police asked for, and got, the full co-operation of the shop stewards in getting to driver off the premises. Although very angry, 100 pickets allowed the police and driver through the gates to the boos of the men.

To date, the police have still not decided whether or not to prosecute the lorry driver despite having interviewed over two dozen witnesses.

So, you might ask yourself, who cased violence on the picket line, and who's condoning it ?

Since the accident the mans fellow workers have donated their £500 Christmas fund to his family. Direct Works Shop Stewards are appealing to other trade unionists to contribute and to help put pressure on the police to prosecute the driver.

If nothing else we hope this coverage of the tragedy will explain to tenants associations on council estates why Bessemer St. Direct Works are still on strike.

(THANKS TO MARC TIMES)

Cont. P.10

Hello Readers!

At last, an opportunity for us all to help godly Mr. Anderton. The ratepayers of Tameside will now be able to hold their heads up high knowing that they are doing their bit to prevent lawlessness and anarchy taking over. My respect for the police has increased tenfold since I learnt of their imaginative plan to turn Buckton Quarry at Mossley into two pistol ranges and a rifle range for their sharpshooters to practice on. With this under his belt, Big Jim will be much better equipped to deal with those subversive magazines which print details of his police computers programme without his permission. The ultimate deterrent can and will be used to stamp out all such crimes.

If only more would follow the splendid proposals of Droylsden Labour Parties! With luck it would close down for good that disgusting tract, Tameside Eye, which gets all its information from the gutter.
I don't normally concern myself with Droylsden, let alone their Labour activities. However, recently, following a spate of leaks to Tameside Eye it was proposed that no Party member could communicate with the press, except through the press officer (Cllr. Ron Foster). I rang him for comment but he wasn't at home, and unfortunately his dog could not help me.

What a shame! Another initiative of private and free enterprise has been stamped upon by the humourless Socialists. My good friend, Mr. W. Bagshaw has been left heart-broken at the recent decision to refuse him planning permission for his marvellous plans for solving Gee Cross HousingCrisis. The Socialist raised some namby-pamby nonsense about getting a quart into a pint pot!

At this Festive time, the Rip-snorter should be sending a few bottles to their unpaid staff at Stalybridge Library. Uncle Bens men are so fully occupied tracking down those elusive scoops that they have no time to index their past issues. So what do they do if they need to refer back to a particular story?
The newshounds dial the hot-line to Stalybridge library where the past four years issues have been indexed.
And the stalwart librarians are still working at the index.

Wretch

FROM PAGE NINE...
HATTERSLEY HOUSING (Cont.)

New Tenancy Agreement

In October all Manchester Council tenants received a Notice to Quit. Although it was written in typical 'heavy' housing lingo, any alarm was unfounded: the notice to quit was merely a legal device. It heralded the 'new' way of assessing rents (i.e. another increase) and a new set of tenancy conditions.
Already in force in other areas of the country (one day even Tameside Housing may introduce them), it leaves the basic landlord/tenant agreement unchanged. However, petty restrictions have been lifted: for example once upon a time tenants suffered compulsory fumigation before being allowed to occupy a house!
Now Hattersley tenants (who pay rent to Manchester) will have certain freedoms as of right:

*To share a house with people other than those listed on the original agreement - subletting is out, but lodgers are in, provided there's room.
*To make 'external decorating', additions, improvements and alterations to property - provided you get a permission note beforehand.
*To have 'shared' houses, that is Manchester is allowing joint tenancies with single people.

The only snag in all this is that it has created another complicated dispute in the Manchester Housing Dep. So, although the new agreements have been delivered, the implementation of the new conditions will have to wait until the dispute is sorted out. The staff face an increased workload, with no extra help. It is unlikely, in the meantime, that sanctions will be imposed on any people who decide to give their front door a new non-standard colour.

NO TIP IN BRUSHES VALLEY

We are some of the young people who live in Brushes Valley.
We attend a Youth Club at Millbrook Community Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
They want to put a tip on the dam near our homes.
We don't want one because of the smells and rats that will come with the rubbish.
Also, there will be 1,000 lorries a day coming up and down Ditch Croft which is already dangerous.
The tip will spoil our enjoyment, for example, no more camping, riding horses in the water, no swimming, polluted water that will kill the fish and nature that lives in and round the dam.
We thought we would like to do a show to help stop the tip. Glenn a helper at the Youth Club asked SPANNER to help us and the Management Committee said they would give us all their support.
We have made it up ourselves, for example, the poems and songs on the next page..
So, we use our Youth Club to practice for the show and also an extra night in our free time.
We hope to hold the show at the end of January.

☆ ☆ ☆

The people involved so far:

Pauline Allaway, Linda Deegan, Deborah Taylor, Julie Taylor, Denise Twigg, Julie Garside, Jason West, John Flanagan, Tony Stanly, Steven Hogan, Paul Twigg.

Helped by Robin, Anna and Penny from Spanner and Lynn, a helper at the club.

By Pauline Allaway.

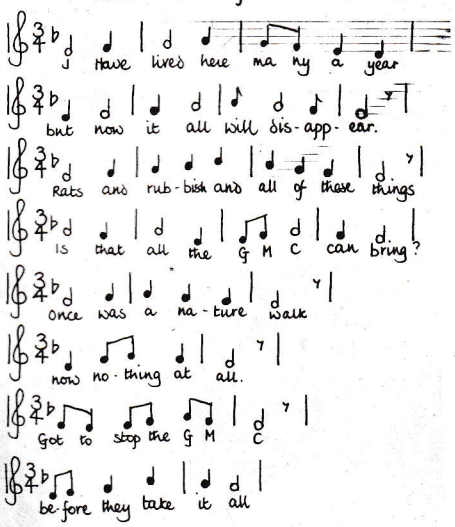
▽ ▽ ▽

picture and heading drawn by Steve Twigg
titles by Steve Hogan and Paul Twigg

△ △ △

THOSE DAM TEENAGERS

A Walk In Life


A Walk In Life : Jason West
I have lived here ma ny a year
but now it all will dis-app-ear.
Rats and rub-bish and all of those things
Is that all the G M C can bring?
Once was a na-ture walk
now no-thing at all.
Got to stop the G M C
be-fore they take it all

LIVIN FREE

Born in the country
lived here sometime
I'm not a naturalist
but I like the outside
why don't they leave us
to do what we wish
do you think they would
like it
served on a dish
the cans and the chemicals
the smells and the taste
bulldozers growling and
wagons enraged
bring back the wildlife
the birds and the bees
we've got to stop this
tipping
so please help us please

written by Jason West

• • • • • • • • •

RATS HOLIDAY

By Paul Twigg

Gather round all you rats
Sit down, listen, take off
your hats
If you're a rat, that wants
a holiday
Listen to what I'v got to say
There's plenty of food just
come and see
What's in store at the Brushes
Valley

WE THREE RATS

Words by Linda Deegan
To tune - We Three Kings

We are three Rats of Millbrook dam
Come and catch us if you can
We keep coming
You keep going
Catch us if you can

Chorus
Oh - Oh frightened people
come - come
We have having lots of fun
We are breeding
and we're feeding
On your goodies from the tip

Children have nowhere to go
lorries going to and fro
They keep coming
Tipping rubbish
For us rats to eat.
Chorus

A few years ago G.M.C. allocated a sum of £96,000 to beautify Brushes Valley. There were to be recreational facilities for all age groups - bridge paths, football area, benches for the elderly, etc.
Then came the plan to use Brushes Valley, all 36 acres of it, as a rubbish tip for 3½ million tons of rubbish. This would involve 500 refuse wagons per day seven days a week, also 120 other vehicles, estimated that there would be a vehicle entering or leaving every 28 seconds.
20 or 30 different organisations are in opposition to this G.M.C. plan. These include - Millbrook Residents, 3 Divisions of the Water Board, The Police, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Education Dept., Local Industrialists
A public enquiry is being sought, until this is heard the plan is frozen.

LINDA DEEGAN

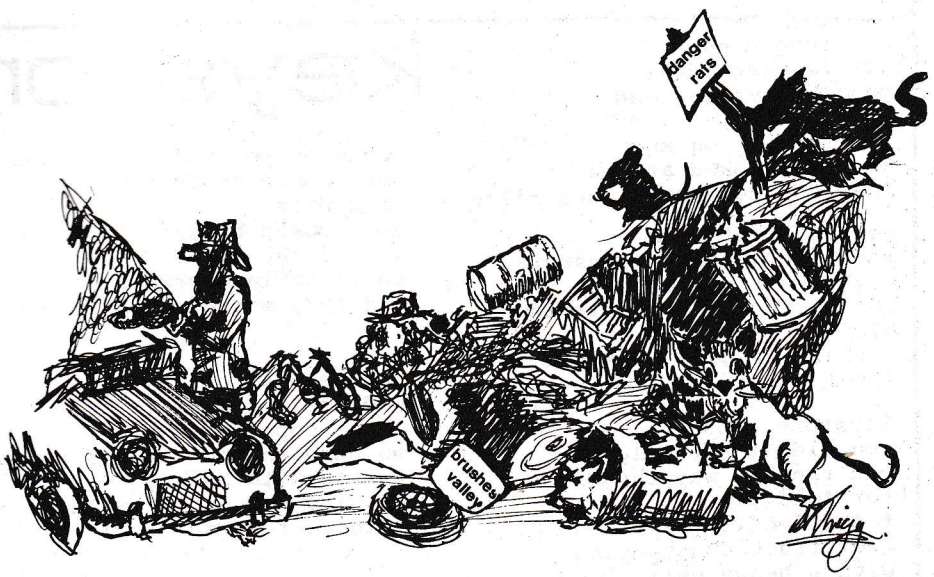
The Old Man

By Linda Deegan

As the old man walks down the street,
he doesn't know where to put his feet,
upon the dirt and filth he treads,
under his breath these are the words he said.

What a beautiful area this used to be,
now I can't even eat my tea,
it makes me feel lousy and sick,
with all the smells and rats which come from the tip.

It's not a pretty sight you know,
now the children have nowhere to go,
I don't know how people put up with it,
it's not very healthy living near a tip.
the people who put it there must be off their head,
I think I'd be better off dead.



holy jim's prayer

Oh, Lord, this towns a sinful place
Which me and mine must bring to grace
With jailing, flatling every face
We don't approve
The Law is always right to chase
And so remove.
I can't think why I'm hated so
When Law and Order as you know
Is all I aim at here below,
In suitable places,
Order is my favourite though,
Lord, how it braces.
And, Lord, you know my evidence
Carries more weight than it does sense,
And Sometimes, Lord, conveys oretence,
Of Higher Action
I'm on your side is my defence
And only faction.
With Martin Webster and the Flag
Two thousand of my lads could brag
They kept our Tameside Tories gag
Oh free opinion,
Our Fuehrer marched as if to bag
The Old Dominion.

There is rumour in this town
That I don't like our brethren brown
Or black and shades both up and down
The spectrum,
It's just my lads rough humours crown
When they collect 'em.

And when you sort the sheep from goats
You'll find my flock in tailored coats
Not horned and hatry at the throats
Unruly,
Mine are the propertied 'in quotes'
And all yours truly.

We'll beat the Commie bastards down,
Delete that, Lord I must not frown
Politically upon the town
Though, Lord, it grieves,
Knowing the danger any clown
With thought achieves.

There's too much thinking going on
From folk once satisfied with none,
Who knew their Betters ruled as one
In tune with Thee,
Happiest in dominion
Of men like me

And, Lord, that night in Collyhurst
When lawless elements were first
Given notice of Thy thirst
For righteous folk,
Only a criminal would burst
Thy cordons yoke.

And, Lord, we've cleansed again the streets
Of hustlers claiming paid-for sweets
Better than our good wives meats
and homely dumpling.
Even if false the thought defeats
Our Lawful humping.

Now, Lord, these pornographic raids
Carried out by my young blades
Are not, as rumoured, sexual aids
For me and mine,
We keep those tons of naughty maids
Apart from thine.

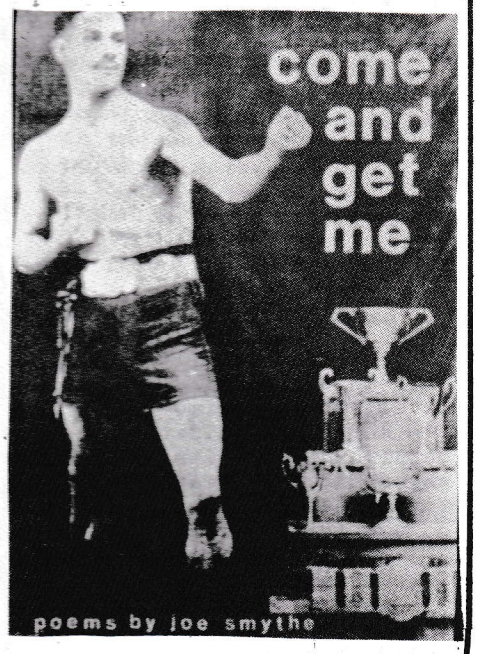
Its only Crime statistics, Lord,
Climb higher than my good accord
Common thieves, the mugging horde.
And suchlike stuff
While whores and queers obey my word
And that's enough

Now Reggie Maudling, Lord, who died
Before he could be put in side
Though no one ever really tried
To nail him.
Preserve him, Lord, some Scotch applied
And you'll not fail him.

And keep that job assured for me,
Chief of your Constabulary
There's folk up There who shouldn't be
Angelic singers
You need Top-Cop to set you free
From those dead-ringers.

By Joe Smythe, poet and rail way guard.

From 'Come and Get me' a pamphlet of his poems published by Commonword, 61 Bloom St Manchester. 25p.



keystone cops

Keystone cops
little black dots
on a big white road

little did you know
when we looked at you
that you were so damned silly

so different from
the black-macked gangsters
with their smokes
the dirty bums that stride
along streets
with their guns at waist level

Keystone cops
you didn't say a lot
you ran the way the Director told you
the friendly comic look
your truncheon hanging

and when you walked in twos
and looked across your shoulders
you looked behind
at all the girls
that sat in doorways
and they mocked back at you

in the heat of the night
Rod Steiger says it all
about cops
so hard the gum in his mouth
twists with hatred
nothing but a bum really
a thick fat racist pig

Keystone cops
can we believe in you
silly little lot?
big ones little ones
cheeky ones
black with silver buckles
silver shells of mindless mercy

running right and left
and to and fro
and back and where you came from

Oh Keystone cops
can't we really have you after all?

votes for spiers

So, David Spiers, Tameside's Chief Executive, is off to supervise the forthcoming elections in Zimbabwe.
The man who 'knows about elections' was apparently selected by the Foreign Office, but it is tempting to wonder whether they have picked the right man for the job.
For seven months after the General Election, the National Front candidate still has not presented his election receipts to the returning officer, who is none other than David Spiers.
Apparently, Cllr. Goerge Newton , one of Labours leading democrats, is pressing for Spiers to sort the matter out.
The word is that the Liberal candidate has also failed to send in his Declaration, so if Newton's move is successful they had better get declaring.
Spiers is currently in the process of selling his chic Mottram Rd. House - perhaps he is leaving us for good

cuts

Recently, the Tories made an attempt to stretch Council proceedings out, to put a spanner in the Mayor's Annual Xmas piss-up, which was to follow the meeting.
Colin Grantham - one-time Tameside Council Fuhrer- proposed a motion supporting the Government cuts and calling for sackings of Tameside staff. (Presumably this is his patent answer to unemployment in the area).
The motion failed, but certainly succeeded in upsetting Roy Oldham. Roy (Chairman of Education) has been seething ever since about how inhuman the Tories are to propose sacking part-time council workers.
Did I hear someone asking how many Adult Education tutors are out of a job since their classes were closed down recently ?

aid

It was heartening for independent community and voluntary groups to see the Urban Aid applications handled more efficiently this year. The scheme whereby Tameside puts in 25%, Central Government 75% of the costs, was last year bungled by Grantham & Co.
This year was not without its interesting moments. There was an attempt by Social Services officers to put forward their £6,000 per year Welfare Rights Officer, leaving the independant welfare rights unit in the cold.
To his credit, Cllr. Peter Bailey argued for independence against the overpaid bureaucrat, and won.
Full of imagination as usual, Wreckreation saved themselves time, energy and thought, by simply putting forward last years (failed) applications.

trip out

Always ready for open debate, the Labour Partys internal wrangles can sometimes appear inconsistent to outsiders - to say the least.
Ashton Consituency Labour Party is organising a trip for its members. Not as you might imagine to visit Aneurin Bevan's grave. They are going to see 'The Bitch' in Manchester banned only a few weeks ago by fellow Labourites on the Environmental Health Committee.
This gem appears in the latest edition of 'Red Torch the Ashton CLP's newsletter (interesting to note that it has been printed by the Communist Party's Progress Printers in Manchester).

more bitching

Patrick C. McEnaney, J.P. the bible-thumping Ashton councillor (Lab.) who was one of the civic worthies who banned 'The Bitch' seems to have paid dearly for his dubious privilege.
At a recent Labour party selection meeting, McEnaney was heavily defeated in his bid to stand for re-election in next May's local elections. He may be down, but he's not out yet though: he has put in an appeal against the decision.

no record

All councillors have to file their financial interests on a statutory register which is not open to public inspection. The voluntary register which makes this information available to the electorate has not been completed by 17 Tameside councillors.
In the voluntary register councillors are asked for details of their main employment or business, Directorships, consultancies, shareholdings, any organisation paying them a retainer or allowance and any interest in Land or property within Tameside.
Whilst 38 councillors have given this information 17 apparently want to keep their financial affairs to themselves.
Readers surprised by the reticence of their councillors might like to ring their representative and ask if they have got something to hide....perish the thought.
Any Tameside elector can inspect the voluntary register in Ashton Town Hall, but to save you the trouble TAMESIDE EYE has prepared a list of councillors who havn't declared their interests:-

LABOUR
Robin Denyer (Dukinfield)
Peter Bailey (Newton)
Anne Booth (Godley)
John Hughes (Longendale)
Thomas Marsden (Ashton)
Leslie Redfern (Ashton)
Frank Ruffley (Ashton)
Philip Warne (Droylsden)
Paul Woolger (Godley)

TORY
Fred Adshead (Denton)
Jesse Amor (Denton)
Eric Clark (Hyde)
Alan d'A Fearn (Ashton)
Geoffrey Hayden (Mossley)
John Keighley (Newton)
Edith Proctor (Audenshaw)
John Turner (Millbrook)

special k

The rise and rise of the Tameside Tories answer to Heseltine, John Kershaw, continued unabated, leaving all around him breathless. In near record time, Kershaw, who is a lecturer in the Business Studies Dept. of Tameside College of Technilogy, has been promoted from L1 to L2 grade.
Kershaw often takes time out to attend his beloved Police Committee meetings in his capacity as a Greater Manchester County Councillor.
He will, no doubt, be urging that the current Greater Manchester Police budget of £77 million be greatly increased next year.
Kershaw stood against Pendry earlier this year and if the leaflets he put through Hattersley doors are anything to go by, his views on Law and Order make Willie Whitelaw (Home Secretary - see picture) look positively left wing.
Which could explain why Mr. Gill, his more liberal Head of Dept,. is none too happy with Kershaw's promotion.

5 Months Detention: No Trial

GIAS UDDIN - SHELDON KEEPS 'MUM'

Gias Uddin is still in detention in Harmordsworth, London, five months after he was seized by police and immigration officials in Liverpool in July. His solicitors successfully applied to the High Court to hear their submission that the Home Secretary did not take proper account of the evidence presented by Gias's grandfather and father, when he ordered Gias's deportation on the grounds that he did not believe him to be the biological son of his father.

At the meeting of the Tameside Council for Racial Equality on 9th November, concerned members pressed for a statement from Robert Sheldon M.P., who was present, on Gias's continued detention. Mr. Sheldon declined to comment saying that 'this matter is sub - judice'. When the concerned members persisted, C.R.E. Chairman Mr. Haenain ruled that this matter must not be discussed.

It is a novel interpretation of 'sub judice' that there can be no discussion of release from imprisonment of a person awaiting a judicial hearing. As for the 'no action' ruling by the C.R.E. Chairman, this is quite consistent with the complete lack of Tameside C.R.E. throughout Gias's imprisonment.

Could it be that the arrest of Dave Hallsworth, who is also President of the C.R.E. has frightened them off from action on this issue.

Jennie Nichols, Community Relations Officer, has expressed her concern about the strained relations between the C.R.E. and Tameside Police. She is pressing for C.R.E. members to return to the local 'Crime Prevention Panel'. But, whilst Ashton police and the court officials seem to link crime with colour of skin and with speaking out against racism, this could hardly be a successful liason.

Meanwhile, C.R.E. officials in Merseyside, helping with Gias's case continue to bypass their Tameside branch and deal with officials from Oldham instead.

STAND AND DELIVER

Music, words and something else

18 JAN

STAND AND DELIVER will now be appearing at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE, Brook Street,(off Katherine Street), Ashton.

EYE needs a decent typwriter. At present we have to rely on being able to borrow one- and as it is old, it often breaks down. We want to get an IBM "Executive" - they cost £350 second hand (£700 new). In addition to typing out the paper, it could also be used by community and trade union groups.

ALL IDEAS AND MONEY TO TAMESIDE EYE, TYPWRITER APPEAL, PO BOX 30, HYDE, SK14 3JL.

-0-0-0-0-0-

So far we have raised £30. Our thanks go in particular to NUPE District Committee for their £5 donation.

GRASS ROOTS BOOKS

1 newton street
piccadilly, manchester
m1 1hw tel 061-236 3112

NEW FEMINIST BOOKS

VIRAGO		
The Lost Traveller	Antonia White	£2.25
The Sugar House	Antonia White	£1.95
Beyond the Glass	Antonia White	£2.25
A Pin to see the Peepshow	F. Terryson Jesse	£2.50
The Lacquer Lady	F. Terryson Jesse	£2.50
WOMEN'S PRESS		
The High Cost of Living	Marge Piercy	£2.25
Women on Edge of Time	Marge Piercy	£1.95
SPHERE		
The Women's Room	Marilyn French	£1.50
HAMLYN		
Fat is a Feminist Issue	Suzie Orbach	85p

MANCHESTER'S ALTERNATIVE BOOKSHOP
Vast range of Books including politics, sexual politics, fiction, education, childrens books, arts, maps and reduced price books

☆★☆ **TAMESIDE** ☆★☆

VOLUNTEER BUREAU

Use the T.V.B copying services;-
DUPLICATING, OFF-SET LITHO,
PHOTOCOPYING, TICKETS
BUSINESS CARDS, ETC.

300 Stamford St, A-U-Lyne.
tel.339 2345

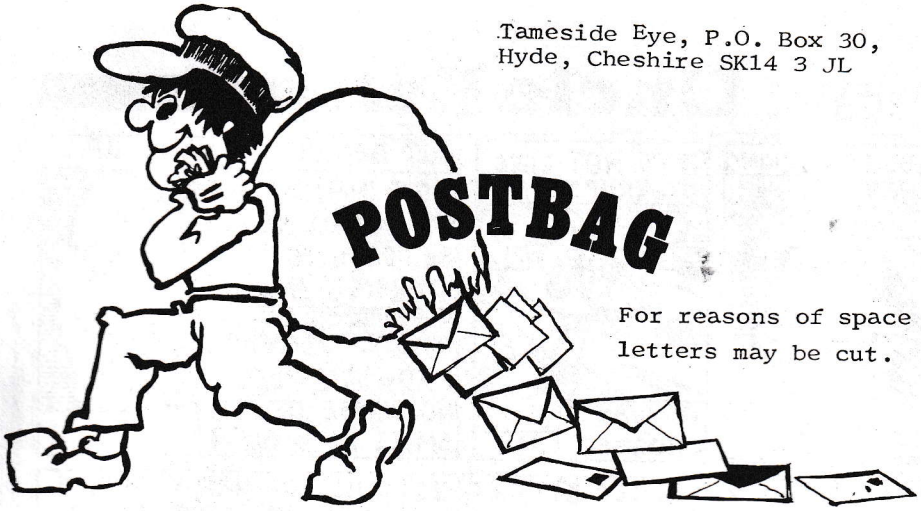
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN TAMESIDE. CONTACT MEG OR LYNDA FOR FUTHER DETAILS.

ABORTION Advice?

TELEPHONE

Suite F
57 Hilton Street
Manchester M1 2EJ
061-236 7777
24 hour answering service

BPAS Charitable Trust.
for Pregnancy Testing, Abortion and Sterilisations
Operations arranged after medical consultation
at our own non-profit clinics.



Tameside Eye, P.O. Box 30,
Hyde, Cheshire SK14 3 JL

For reasons of space letters may be cut.

Dear Lameside Eye,
After 12 months life you have clearly become part of the establishment and your esoteric style of journalism is no longer comprehensible to grassroots like me.
Can I have some explanation of the last Uncle Ben feature? Who is Ernie Dim? What were the apparent references to golfers, gays, unconventional sex and planning permissions all about? Is Uncle Ben a ferret? Is there a real story and if so dare you print it?
Finally, the conclusion, I always say that every fairy story, if a fairy story it is, should have a happy end.
Yours fraternally,
Dr. Nakamura.

Dear Sir,

As a Socialist for many years, I found Uncle Ben very hard to understand. But it was interesting when it got on to bribery and corruption, and even porn. I was still confused but I am now more confused as it has gone completely.
What did it mean and why has it disappeared ?
I.B. watching you 2.

LAMESIDER (Socialist)

Dear Editor,
As a former employee of the Evening News I like your story about them very much. You are quite right they are trying to control the press in this area.
They are after closing down the Rochdale Observer printworks and the Stockport paper and when they get hold of the Ashton Reporter they will close that down too and print at their new plant on the east lancs Rd. This would put a lot of printers out of work just to make more profit for the capitalists.
In the meantime look what happens to their clever free newspaper on a rainly day in Dukinfield. I got this from one of their ex-advertisers.
Carry on the good work.
Eddie Holland.
ED:- The Advertiser is owned by the Manchester Evening News Group.

DEAR EYE,

Here is some information about the M/cr Group of FRIEND the advice, befriending and counselling service for gay people.
In a society as corrupted by sexual stereotyping and the image of the macho male as ours, lots of women and men are pilloried for their refusal or inability to conform. Many of these people are lesbians or male homosexuals.
In Tameside there is little obvious sign of the fight back of gay people in the provision by gay people themselves of sources of advice, help and long-term support for fellow gay women and men trying to be free to live in fulfillment in self acceptance of themselves as gay.
Until we have gay groups in Ashton, Hyde and Stalybridge providing information and friendship and social facilities for gay people in this area lots of us will survive by hiding away, alone with our feelings.
For some local gay people and for bisexuals, and for transvestities or transsexuals a partial answer to the need for contact with others may be met however by a network of help services and social groups run by gays in central Manchester.
A point of contact for people wanting to begin to make the link with other gay, bisexual or transvestite/transsexual people is MANCHESTER FRIEND.
We are a collective of people who have a real understanding of what it means to be brought up in a mould which is alien - we have accepted our own homosexuality, or bisexuality, or transvestism, after starting life in families and at school and in workplaces where it was rejected. WE can help.
A member of FRIEND is available, to listen and to talk, on 061 273 5686, 7.-- to 10.00pm Monday to Friday.
We may be able to offer information or advice. We may suggest a meeting you can attend, if you are a young person, or are transvestite for example, there are thriving social and supportive groups in Manchester meeting at least once a week.
If you have particular difficulties or worries, and a group isnt for you at this stage, a FRIEND member may be prepared to meet you individually.
If you would prefer to write in the first instance, you can to - FRIEND, 178 Oxford Rd. Manchester M13 9QQ.

DAVID MOTTRAM.

the secret life of **Uncle Ben**

HELLO BOYS AND GIRLS THERE I WAS BASKING IN THE BAHAMAS SUNSHINE, SPENDING MY TAX REBATE. NOT A THOUGHT OF YOU POOR SODS IN THE POURING LAMESIDE RAIN.....

.... DREAMING ABOUT WORKING ON A REAL PAPER....

RING RING

BEN'S HOT LINE INTERRUPTED....

IT WAS A CROSSED LINE

BUT BEN DIDN'T HANG UP

BUT DIM! SNYDE TOWN HALL WOULD BE IDEAL FOR STORING CHEMICALS

MASTER PLAN MY LAD- THEY'VE NO SENSE OF SMELL IN SNYDE

WHAT ARE DIM AND SNEERS PLOTTING? WHAT A SCOOP!

AFTER THOUGHT BUBBLE

BUT WILL THE RIP-SNORTER PRINT IT?

BEN FLEW BACK

A PISSED SHARK

RIPSNORTER CHARTER

FIRST HE HAD TO WRITE HIS REGULAR COLUMN....

HELLO BOYS & GIRLS THE BAHAMAS ARE BEAUTIFUL ISLANDS

FULL OF HAPPY NATIVES. BRITAIN MADE THEM WHAT THEY ARE TODAY

HERE IS A PICTURE FOR YOU TO COLOUR IN

MEANWHILE AT DIMS OFFICE

KNOCK KNOCK

1001 THINGS TO DO WITH EMPTY TOWN HALLS

STERLINGATE WILL TAKE FOUR TOWN HALLS OFF OUR HANDS

ONLY 4!

THE REST COULD BECOME CAR PARKS

TAP TAP

WAIT I HAVE AN IDEA.... I THINK!

AH BEN YOU'RE JUST THE CLEVER BUGGAR I NEED

REMEMBER BEN YOU FAILED TO ROB THE RICH WELL LAMESIDE WANTS AN XMAS PRESENT FROM YOU

GULP

YOU AND SNEERS ARE GOING TO ROB A BANK INSTEAD

DIM REMOVES HIS WINTER WARMER

EXIT SNEERS

THIS IS TOO HOT FOR ME I'M OFF TO RHODESIA

AND IF YOU FAIL THIS TIME YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF A LIVE TARGET AT THE POLICE RIFLE RANGE IN BUCKTON QUARRY

BEN PULLS THE STOCKING OVER HIS FACE

AT LAST I'VE GOT SOME SUPPORT

ODEON

NO SEX PLEASE WE'RE LAMESIDERS

10 MINS IS ENOUGH

"HELLO BOYS & GIRLS. BANK ROBBERS LEAD VERY EXCITING LIVES"

BACK AT THE BEN CAVE...

HELLO SUPER BEN COME TO OUR NEW OFFICES IN TRASHTON ADRAGGER WANTS TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER

WILL BEN DESERT THE SINKING RIPSNORTER? WHAT HAS THE ADRAGGER GOT TO OFFER? WATCH OUT FOR NEXT ISSUES EQUALLY MYSTIFYING INSTALMENT